

Movies Buy Suicide Pilot Story for \$8000

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING—the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shoppers Reach 100,000 Buyers

Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

39th Year—No. 64

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1953

PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000

"Twice Weekly Is Twice As Well Read"

10¢

Per Copy

Every Sunday and Thursday Home Delivered by Carrier 30 Cents Per Month (Average 8 Issues Per Month)

Poor Ambulance Service Charges Prompts Inquiry

Gibson Promises Ambulance Inquiry

By JACK O. BALDWIN

Charges levied by the Torrance Herald that traffic accident victims have endured long and unnecessary waits for an ambulance to arrive at the scene of a crash along Western Ave. brought a promise of prompt investigation this week by John S. Gibson, president of the Los Angeles City Council.

Councilman Gibson told the Herald yesterday he intended to discuss with Dr. Charles Sebastian, medical director of the Los Angeles Georgia Street Receiving Hospital, what could be done to speed up ambulance service for accident victims along the east side of Western Ave.—"Orphan Alley."

The councilman, who represents the 15th Councilmanic District of Los Angeles, which includes the Shoestring Strip, said he already had discussed the matter of quicker police response to accident calls with the Los Angeles Police Dept. So have we.

A traffic bureau spokesman for the Los Angeles Police Dept. blamed the manner in which accident calls were relayed to Los Angeles by the Torrance Police Dept. as one of the reasons for slow response to calls by the traffic cars of LAPD.

"Often times Torrance does not indicate the urgency when relaying accident reports to us. Normally our cars do not roll to an accident using red light and siren unless we are advised that an emergency exists," said the LAPD spokesman.

Police Chief John Stroth of Torrance denied the charge emphatically.

"Whenever we relay a call to Los Angeles that an accident is in their jurisdiction, we always inform them of the seriousness of the accident as we know of it. If we do not know what the accident involves, we tell them so. If there are injuries we tell them an ambulance is needed," Stroth said.

Meanwhile scores of letters and phone calls poured in to the Torrance Herald following its editorial of last Thursday. The calls coming from residents of both the Shoestring Strip and Torrance complimented the Herald for bringing to light the serious situation along "Orphan Alley."

Injured persons and accident victims suffer because of the confusion of jurisdiction along Western Ave. from 174th Street to 245th Street. Part of Western Ave. between these limits lies within the city of Los Angeles and other parts in Torrance and in some parts the boundary line is right down the middle of the street, with Torrance having jurisdiction of one side and Los Angeles the other.

Police Chief Stroth blames lack of adequate equipment as the reason for Los Angeles being slow to respond to accident calls on its side of Western Ave.

Another reason is that the stretch of Western Ave. north of 174th Street is serviced by Los Angeles from its 77th Street substation in Los Angeles. On some occasions, when the 77th Street ambulance is responding to another call, an ambulance must be dispatched to the scene of the accident from Georgia Street Receiving Hospital, more than 15 miles distant.

On other occasions injured persons are picked up here, taken on the long ride to Georgia Street, where they receive "first aid" and are then transported back to Harbor General Hospital, which is only a mile or so from the scene of the accident. This procedure is not done to Western Avenue. On a recent occasion, an 11-year-old boy was killed in an accident

at Normandie Avenue and Carson Street, less than a block from the entrance to Harbor General Hospital, was picked up by an ambulance under contract to Los Angeles, transported to the Wilmington Receiving Hospital, and immediately returned to Harbor General Hospital the ambulance passing through the same intersection as that of the accident on its return trip to the nearby hospital.

On several occasions an ambulance operated by the South Bay Ambulance Service was standing by the scene of an accident, available to transport the injured to the hospital. The driver was instructed by Los Angeles traffic officers (acting under instructions), not to touch the wounded as Los Angeles was sending its own ambulance to an incident occurred on July 17 at 9:34 a.m., which is the time the South Bay ambulance arrived on the scene. At 9:55 a.m. a Los Angeles ambulance arrived on the scene.

The Herald has asked Councilman Gibson to sponsor legislation (if necessary) by the Los Angeles City Council to end this foolish jurisdictional squabbling. When injured persons sit bleeding in crumpled autos or lie on the gasoline splattered pavement, grating in pain it is no time to haggle over what city should assume jurisdiction.

Military graveside services and burial at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery will be held for John Edmund Striplin, 47, an Air Force major during World War II who committed suicide by piping exhaust gases into his car early Wednesday morning.

Military Burial To Be Given to Suicide Victim

Striplin's body was discovered by his wife Kathryn in the garage of their home at 5249 Linden Dr. Financial difficulties were listed as the cause of the veteran taking his life.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Stone and Myers Chapel, and will be conducted by the Rev. C. J. Englund of the First Christian Church. Military interment will follow at 1 p.m. at the National Cemetery. Striplin was a veteran of 20 years of military service.

A native of Butte, Mont., he had lived in Torrance for four years and was employed by North American Aviation as an engineer. He had worked there for seven years.

He is survived by his widow, Kathryn; a brother, William Striplin of Portland, Ore., and a daughter, Mrs. E. Kelley, of Long Beach.

Foster Services Pending

Funeral services are pending at Stone and Myers Chapel for Sarah Foster, 80, who died yesterday at the home of her daughter, 2113 W. 218th St. Besides her daughter, Lillian, Mrs. Foster is survived by a son, Fred Foster, of 12 Beach Ave.



RED FEATHER LEADERS . . . Surrounding a gold trophy presented for organizational achievement are leaders of the 1953 Community Chest campaign. Pictured at Friday's meeting (left to right) Paul D. Loranger, commerce and industry chairman; Mott C. Farrell, city vice-chairman; Cy Weber, public employee; Eddy Raphael, business chairman; A. E. "Tommy" Thompson, Torrance chairman; Jack Dabbs, Harbor Area vice-chairman; W. C. Bullock, Harbor Area chairman; John A. Ebbinghouse, city vice-chairman; Mrs. Ella Schwartz, advance gift chairman; and Mrs. Patty Rudnick, residential chairman.

Torrance Chest Leaders Earn EAK Gold Trophy

Leaders of the 1953 Community Chest Campaign in Torrance were rewarded Friday for their organizational achievements with the presentation of the E. A. K. Gold Cup Trophy by W. C. Bullock, Harbor Area chairman.

Accepting the trophy at a meeting of local Red Feather chairmen was A. E. Thompson, city chairman. The meeting, attended by 10 Chest campaign leaders, was held in the conference room of the General Petroleum Corp. Industrial Relations building.

The local Chest drive leaders may keep the trophy until the next organizational deadline Sept. 9. If the committee has met the organizational requirements for that deadline or is the most completely organized percentage-wise of the various Chest organizations in the Harbor District, it will be awarded the trophy until the next organizational deadline.

Area Chairman Bullock told the local Chest campaign leaders, "There is no fun like work. Do the work and you'll find the fun."

Thompson said he was well pleased with the accomplishments of the organization to date and was confident if the group continued its present rate of achievement it would have little difficulty in filling Torrance's Red Feather quota.

To be heard Friday, Stroth said. The charges were filed against Tidwell, who lives at 25124-B Broadwell Ave., Harbor City, after he allegedly threatened Walter Elliott, president of the union, with a gun on June 28.

A complaint signed by Elliott against Tidwell was the former union official threatened Elliott with a gun at Elliott's home, 2511 Olive St., on that date; Tidwell has denied the charges and asked for a jury trial.

All three charges now are due

Suicide Pilot Sells Life Story to Films

A former Torrance furniture salesman, Roland Sperry, who made headlines in March when he threatened to suicide-crash his airplane into the sea, claimed from his jail cell this week that he has sold his life story to the movies for \$8000.

The dramatic suicide attempt began on March 27, when Sperry borrowed a plane belonging to a friend from Gardena - Airport and flew it up into the wild, blue yonder, threatening by radio to crash it and himself into the ocean.



SPERRY

He was dissuaded from this plot by a friend, whose father owned the airplane Sperry had borrowed. In the meantime, every newsman, cop and pilot from here to San Diego was alerted, and practically all of them got into the act.

Sperry finally landed at Lindbergh Field in San Diego and was picked up on bad check charges, some of which were filed from Torrance.

Now serving 90 days at the Wayside Honor Farm, Castaic, after pleading guilty to the bad check charges, Sperry has revealed that a film telling of his sensational flight will be started soon for release in January.

He was, formerly a salesman at the El Prado Furniture Store. Money received for the film rights to his story has helped him pay his debts, which were partly responsible for his suicide flight, he said. While at county jail awaiting sentence, Sperry announced he received more than 3000 letters and \$1700 in cash from people who read of his difficulties and took pity on him.

Sperry received two Bronze Stars, a Distinguished Flying Cross, Good Conduct Medal, Air Medal and Purple Heart while flying for the Air Force in the second World War. He also received a six-inch plate in his head after a shrapnel shell had lacerated his head.

His wife Ovella's divorce, plus bad check charges and debts, were listed as reasons for his ill flight, his third attempt at suicide that week, according to authorities.

Tidwell Trial Continued Until Friday, Aug. 14

Trial of Haskell Tidwell, former secretary of the San Pedro Retail Clerks Union, on charges of battery, disturbing the peace, and carrying a concealed weapon was set over for a week in the court of Judge Otto B. Willett Friday, when the defendant failed to appear.

A continuance on the first two charges had been granted, but the third charge, filed at a later time, was refilled and will be due Friday, Aug. 14, according to Police Chief J. H. Stroth.

Tidwell's attorney, Alexander Schulman, who is out of the state, had written the court asking for a continuance until he could return, Stroth said. However, the third charge was filed after the continuance request and was not included.

All three charges now are due

Runaway Lads Sleep in Waleria Phone Booth

Two Lennox boys, each 10, got as far as Hawthorne Ave. and Newton St. last week when they decided to leave home.

The two lads were found cuddled up in a phone booth at the Waleria intersection about 3 a.m. the other morning.

Sheriff's officers who had been on the prowl for the missing pair picked them up and returned them to their parents, according to Torrance police.



BACK TO SEA . . . The 38-foot power boat of the Optimist Club-sponsored Sea Scout Unit 2173 went back into the water at San Pedro this week after receiving a complete overhaul by the unit here during the past couple of months. An Oilfields Trucking Co. rig took the boat to the harbor, where it will be fitted with a propeller today and taken to the Sea Scout base near Cabrillo Beach. Up on the boat is Dr. Joe Ray, skipper of the unit.



"BLOOMER GIRL" . . . Attractive Dorothy Dallas, Torrance's own mezzo-soprano, has been picked to play the feminine lead, Evallina, in the October production of the South Bay Light Opera's gay musical, "Bloomer Girl." Here she rehearses a song she will sing as a guest performer at the Miss Torrance of 1953 Queen Contest on Aug. 18 in the Civic Auditorium.

Magazine Publishes Hull Policy Article

A story reflecting the policy of the Torrance Unified School District toward building a good public relations program appeared in the August issue of "The School Executive," a nationally distributed magazine for school administrators.

Written by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools here, the article offers the elements of a good public relations program for school systems as they have been outlined and practiced locally. Dr. Hull's article:

The attitude of the top administrator is the most contagious single element in the public relations program. Only when he and the other administrative personnel of a school system have accepted the idea that they are to serve the school system, rather than that it is to serve them, can they have some hope of having good public relations develop.

With this idea as a foundation, the following principles applied to the development of the school program have produced good results in application in many school districts.

Open operation of any institution, including the public schools, means: (1) The Open Door, (2) Open Channels, (3) On the Table Dealing, and (4) Action in Terms of all of the Facts which it is Appropriate to Obtain. The first two principles go together and the last two go together.

Open Door, Open Channels It is good, but not good enough, for the executive simply to maintain an open door policy. Such a policy can be a fact and such a policy can be in operation, and yet very few people go through the door, because the channels of communication throughout the pattern of the organization are difficult to pass through.

Also, many people can go through the door, but the channels be so muddled that the organization bogs down and resultant irritations build poor public relations. Keeping the channels of communication open so well and so effectively that not only intellectual understanding, but also emotional harmony, rapport, or empathy can be achieved and maintained, is the essence of sound administration in a democratic setting. This, of course, requires reciprocal communication — not just one-way lines of communication.

The second phase of open operation is the simple procedure of putting all the cards on the table and of obtaining all appropriate facts. Such a policy increases the likelihood of sound decisions and builds confidence in those who are observing the public business. It does not mean that the public is to be another thing, too. It tends to convince even the opponents of a policy, that the policy has a sound basis, and when it does not win them, tends at least to result in passive acceptance or

feeble opposition, when the policy is sound.

The goal of any program of educational public relations is understanding. This includes both intellectual and emotional understanding. A program that is understood is a program that is accepted. The factors of misinformation, misinterpretations and

misunderstanding are the most common causes of misunderstanding. (Continued on Page 3)

Goss May Be New Field Secretary For John Gibson

Joe Goss, former reporter covering the busy Harbor Area for the Los Angeles Daily Mirror, is likely to become field secretary for Councilman John Gibson if the Los Angeles City Council adopts a proposed ordinance providing \$75,000 for employment of field secretaries for individual councilmen, the Herald learned yesterday.

Gibson represents the 15th Councilmanic District, which includes the Shoestring Strip. The Council voted 9 to 3 in favor of preliminary steps Friday, indicating eventual adoption of the ordinance. Under the plan, the field secretaries would draw salaries of \$5000 per year.

Opposition came from Councilmen Harold Henry, John Holland and Charles Navarro. Henry asked: "What type of person can you expect to employ for \$400 a month?" and suggested that only six field secretaries be provided for.

Objections were based on the contention that some councilmen had no need of field secretaries. After a motion for a week's continuance was voted down, the ordinance was placed on a first reading. Final passage was held over for a week because of the lack of a unanimous vote Friday.